GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:677
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
DISTRIBUTION THROUGH PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of wheat, sugar, rice and pulses released for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) to the States during October to December 2007;

(b) whether some States have failed to lift some of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(d) whether certificates in token of distribution of these items have been received from States particularly the North Eastern States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the action being taken to get the certificates from these States; and (g) the monitoring system in vogue to ensure that these goods reach the actual beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (g): The commodity-wise details are as follows:

(I) Foodgrains: The details of allocation and offtake (lifting by the States/UTs) of the total quantity of foodgrains (rice and wheat) released to the States/UTs under PDS during October to December, 2007 are at Annex IA & IB.As per the guidelines, the foodgrains allocated to the State are required to be lifted/released within the validity period, subject to timely deposit of the payment by the State and availability of the foodgrains in the designated godowns of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). However, sometimes, the State Govts are unable to lift the allocated quantities on account of reasons such as resource crunch faced by a state government, administrative or logistical problems created by natural calamities, etc. Requests for extension of the validity period for lifting of foodgrains are also considered, as and when received. Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of the Central and State and UT Governments. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and allocation of foodgrains upto the PD Centres in the States/UTs. The State and UT Governments are responsible for identification of families of APL and BPL (Below Poverty Line), issue of ration cards, undertake review of the lists of BPL and Antyodaya families for the purpose of deletion of ineligible families and inclusion of eligible families and, distribution of the foodgrains through the network of the Fair Price Shops (FPSs).As per the provisions of the PDS (Control Order) 2001, the States/UTs are required to furnish Utilisation Certificates (UCs) in respect to the allocations of foodgrains made under the TPDS within a period of 60 days of the month of allocation. These instructions are impressed upon the States/UTs from time to time. Position of UCs in respect of States/UTs, including the North-Eastern States is as per Annex-II.Further, to ensure that foodgrains reach the targeted beneficiaries, a Nine Point Action Plan is also under implementation in the States/UTs as under:

1. Continuous review of the BPL and AAY lists to eliminate bogus ration cards and to ensure coverage of only eligible BPL and Antyodaya families.

2. Ensuring leakage-free and diversion-free distribution of PDS commodities, regular inspection by different levels of functionaries, strict action against guilty persons/agencies.

3. Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in PDS operations-PRI representatives on Advisory Committees, running of fair price shops by Panchayats and effective representation of Panchayati Raj representatives on Vigilance Committees.

4. Ensuring transparency in working of PDS, display of BPL and AAY lists by fair price shops, observance of notified timings by fair price shops.

5. Use of Information Technology, Computerization of TPDS operations, display of fair price shops -wise and district wise allocations of PDS commodities on web-sites for public scrutiny.

6. Carryout door step delivery of PDS commodities to fair price shops.

7. Ensuring timely availability of and issuance of foodgrains by fair price shops.

8. Creating awareness among public about PDS operations, training Vigilance Committees of intricacies of PDS operations.

9. Making fair price shops financially viable entities-allowing them to sell non PDS items etc.

(II) Levy Sugar: The details of State-wise allocation of levy sugar under PDS during October to December 2007 are at Annex-III. Levy sugar is allocated to the State Government/Food Corporation of India as per the quota fixed by the Central Government on monthly basis. It is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to lift the levy sugar from sugar mills and in case of FCI operated States from FCI depots for distribution among PDS beneficiaries of the State. Submission of utilization certificates by States/UT Government has not been prescribed.

(III) Pulses: Pulses are not included amongst the commodities distributed under the PDS from Central Pool.